

Message Text

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63

ACTION INR-11

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3978

AMEMBASSY BONN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 1599

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, GE, FI

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

REF: HELSINKI 1815 (NOTAL)

1. HEINZ OELZNER, GDR AMBASSADOR TO FINLAND SINCE JANUARY 25, 1973, WAS BORN INTO A WORKING-CLASS FAMILY ON JULY 4, 1921, AND WORKED FOR A TIME IN MINING BEFORE OBTAINING A UNIVERSITY DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY IN 1958. HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE EAST GERMAN SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY (SED) DATES FROM 1958, WHEN HE FIRST GAINED ATTENTION AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ERFURT DISTRICT ECONOMIC COUNCIL. FROM 1958 TO 1964, OELZNER ROSE STEADILY IN THE ERFURT PARTY BUREAUCRACY AND WAS APPOINTED IN 1962 TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE SED-ERFURT DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION. (HIS FIRST OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT CAME IN 1964 WHEN HE WAS NAMED PRINCIPAL ADVISEER TO THE GDR EMBASSY IN PRAGUE, WHENCE HE MOVED TO FINLAND IN 1967 AS HEAD OF THE PERMANENT GDR TRADE DELEGATION IN HELSINKI. OELZNER HAS BEEN IN HELSINKI SINCE 1967 AND MADE THE SHIFT TO AMBASSADOR IN EARLY 1973.

2. COMMENT: OELZNER'S SED PARTY AFFILIATION AND HIS SPECIALIZATION IN ECONOMICS ARE CHARACTERISTICS TYPICAL
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OF MANY RECENTLY-APPOINTED GDR AMBASSADORS AND BESPEAK

THE IMPORTANCE THE GDR PLACES ON ECONOMICS AND TRADE
IN THE EARLY STAGES OF ITS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE SOVIET BLOC.SELIGMANN

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